

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Sun 2/26/2017 9:47:34 PM
Subject: Save The Elephants!

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an 8th grader who attends Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy School. As a part of our curriculum, we do something called Passion Projects. Passion Projects are a way for us to make a change in society with a problem we are passionate about. We first begin with research on our topic and then find a solution or at least a temporary one to try and solve this problem. My Passion Project topic, which extremely bothers me, is the endangerment of elephants. While researching about these animals, this topic has devastated many people, the thing that bother me is that the reason these animals are endangered is all because of us. We are the ones who are taking the lives of these magnificent creatures when they didn't do anything to harm us. Elephants are vanishing from our earth, but it's not too late to save them.

Elephants are a well known species all around the world. They are highly intelligent and share some similarities with us. There is so much left to discover about these magnificent creatures, but they are constantly being slaughtered and we fail to realize what is happening to them because we are living in the shadows. Every 15 minutes, an elephants is murdered. Which means 21,600 elephants' lives are taken away because of what they have. This means 7,884,000 elephants are dead every year. Even after a law was passed about the issue of illegal ivory trade, people still choose to harm these animals who haven't done anything to us. Satao the elephant was among one of Kenya's many elephants who was shot. Satao was a very loved and adored elephant because of how big his tusks were. His tusks were longer than 6.5 feet. We would think that his big tusks would protect him, but it only made him more vulnerable. On May 30, 2014, Satao was killed from poison arrows and his tusks were hacked off his face.

There has been many recent discoveries as to why some people are doing the illegal ivory trade which constantly harms this species until their doomsday. On March 21, 2013, there was a shooting at Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya. The perpetrators who carried out this attack was the African terrorist group, Al-Shabaab. Terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab carry out these attacks because they are getting paid a grave amount of money. They are getting funded to carry out these attacks by the sales of the illegal ivory trade which is going on all around the world. Al-Shabaab's income from ivory is roughly \$600,000 per month. When we are buying an item or a trinket made out of ivory, we are actually funding these

terrorist groups to attack us. What's worse about this situation is that we have no idea that this is happening around us. If we stop the endangerment of elephants, we can make our world a much safer place. But, how are we able to change?

Fortunately, we can save all the elephants who are in the same case as Satao, but we need to do it now. To save the elephants, we have to start step by step. First, we should send flyers educating the people about the elephant's situations. One of the main reasons why people don't act out or are aware of the elephants are because they aren't educated or they don't have access to what is happening outside of everyone's homes. The only way I found out about the elephant's endangerment is by a summer class which my parent's have paid for. Because of that class, it made me want to make a difference here. Imagine what we could do with everyone wanting to help these creatures out. After sending these flyers, we can move on to stopping the illegal ivory trade business for good. We have around 11 years before these elephants are extinct for good. The only way we can change this world for the better is if we start to change now. Thank you for your time and I hope we can give our future generations the gift of seeing these elephants and learning as much as they can about them.

Sincerely,

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